

Response

The claims were amended in accordance with the amendments above. The amendments to the claims are being made to clarify the invention and to focus the claims on those aspects of the invention which are a commercial priority to the assignee. All of the amendments are fully supported by the specification, claims, and figures as originally filed. No new matter is believed or intended to be involved.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview with the Examiner on 10/27/2005. The claims were amended as discussed in the interview. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication during the interview that the present amendments would overcome the rejections in the pending Office Action. The Applicant acknowledges that the Examiner reserved the right to update his search.

To the extent that the amendments constitute a narrowing of the claims, such narrowing of the claims should not be construed as an admission as to the merits of the prior rejections. Indeed, Applicant traverses the rejections and preserves all rights and arguments.

Based on the foregoing, all pending claims are in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and an early notice of allowance.

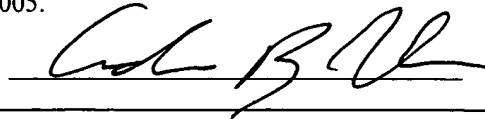
Respectfully Submitted,



Andrew B. Ulmer (Reg. No. 57,003)
Frost Brown Todd LLC
2500 PNC Center
201 East Fifth Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-4182
513-369-4811 (direct)
513-651-6981 (fax)

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